

8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment 2023-24

Welcome to eighth grade summer reading! In order to properly prepare for eighth grade, you need to keep up your independent reading this summer.

For this summer, your goal is to read three books. One book, *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton is required reading. Please complete the following questions in a Google Doc and be prepared to actively discuss the questions and book upon your return. You will be tested on this book.

For the next two books, please select from the provided book lists, but your choices need to be different genres. Once back into school, you will also be presenting on one of these to the class as well. I will provide that direction and guidelines later, just be sure you know your books!

Meanwhile, for all three books:

1) While reading, **novel code/annotate the entire book.**

The Novel Code sheet is attached to this document.

2) After reading the two books you selected, follow the response process below per book. *There are five groups of questions.*

Choose one question from each of the five groups per book.

Questions are attached to this document.

Answer each question in a thoughtful and **well-developed paragraph of at least five sentences.**

Each answer/paragraph should contain **textual evidence** (specific examples from your book, stating the page number in parentheses behind your quote or summary) to support your ideas.

On the First Day of School

1. Bring your annotated books to class with your name written inside.
2. Bring your five completed paragraph answers for the two books of your choice as well as the response for *The Outsiders*.

Reminders

- Type your paragraphs using Times New Roman, 12-point font and double-space the responses.
- For the two books you select, type the questions you are answering at the top of the page.
- Paragraphs are indented.
- Names are capitalized as the first and main words in a title.
- Titles are italicized.

Happy reading!

Worksheet for *The Outsiders* only.

**** Type (or copy and paste) these questions into a Google Doc to print and submit. ****

Student name - _____

Book title - *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton

Directions:

Answer each of the questions below in a **minimum of three complete sentences**. Your answers should reflect details from the book, **annotated with a page number in parentheses behind your quote or summary**. Any words in the directions you may not know, look them up, write it down for understanding, then proceed with the assignment. (Ex, foreshadowing, dramatic irony...)

1. Describe the personality, appearance, and behaviors of TWO round characters in the story.

Round characters are fully realized characters that come into conflict with each other and other characters in believable ways, spurring character development.

Character's name:

Character's name:

2. S. E. Hinton writes with imagery. Locate a section in the book (2-4 sentences) where her words painted a picture in your mind, and write it exactly as it appears below.
3. Name a character and state his or her tragic flaw. Cite an example in the book that proves this.
4. Cite an example of dramatic irony from the book. Write what the reader knew before the character(s) did.
5. S.E. Hinton uses a great deal of foreshadowing in the book. Cite an example of foreshadowing and explain what it was, and how it played out. Hint: there is foreshadowing used in the first few pages.
6. How was this book similar to *Romeo and Juliet*? List one similarity and explain.
7. In your opinion, was there a tragic hero in this story? Why or why not? Explain
8. What do you think Freytag's Pyramid looks like for this story? (See attachment as a reminder)
9. Write about one connection you made to this book. What in this book reminded you of something in your personal experience?
10. **Theme of the book?** Write a **phrase** that captures the theme. **Defend why you think so.**
Ex.: Good vs. Evil. Hard work pays off. Love conquers all. (Note, these are just examples of a theme. They may not be a theme of the books you read. You may need to generate ones of your own.)

Worksheet for the two books you chose:

**** Type (or copy and paste) these questions into a Google Doc to print and submit. ****

Group 1-5 Questions

Group 1

Choose ONE of the following questions:

- Describe the setting in your book. How important is it to the story?
- I would/would not like to live during this time period because...
- I would/would not like to live in this place because...
- Introduce the exposition: setting (time and place), characters, and intro to plot and conflict

Group 2

Choose ONE of the following questions:

- Describe the main character in your book. Be sure to give examples.
- Who is the protagonist in your story and what type of conflict does your protagonist face?
- What is the main conflict in your book? How was this conflict resolved?
- What conflict was resolved in a way you do not agree with? Was it realistic? Explain. How would you resolve that conflict?

Group 3

Choose ONE of the following questions:

- Is your character a static or dynamic character? Explain why he/she is a static or dynamic character by providing examples from the novel. (A static character stays the same from the beginning of the book to the end. A dynamic character changes over the course of the book).
- Describe the main character in your novel (excluding appearance). What are his/her faults? What are his/her strengths?
- What circumstances in your character's life cause them to act as they do?
- The character that interests me most is ... because ... OR I would be a friend or foe of which character? Why?

Group 4

Choose ONE of the following questions:

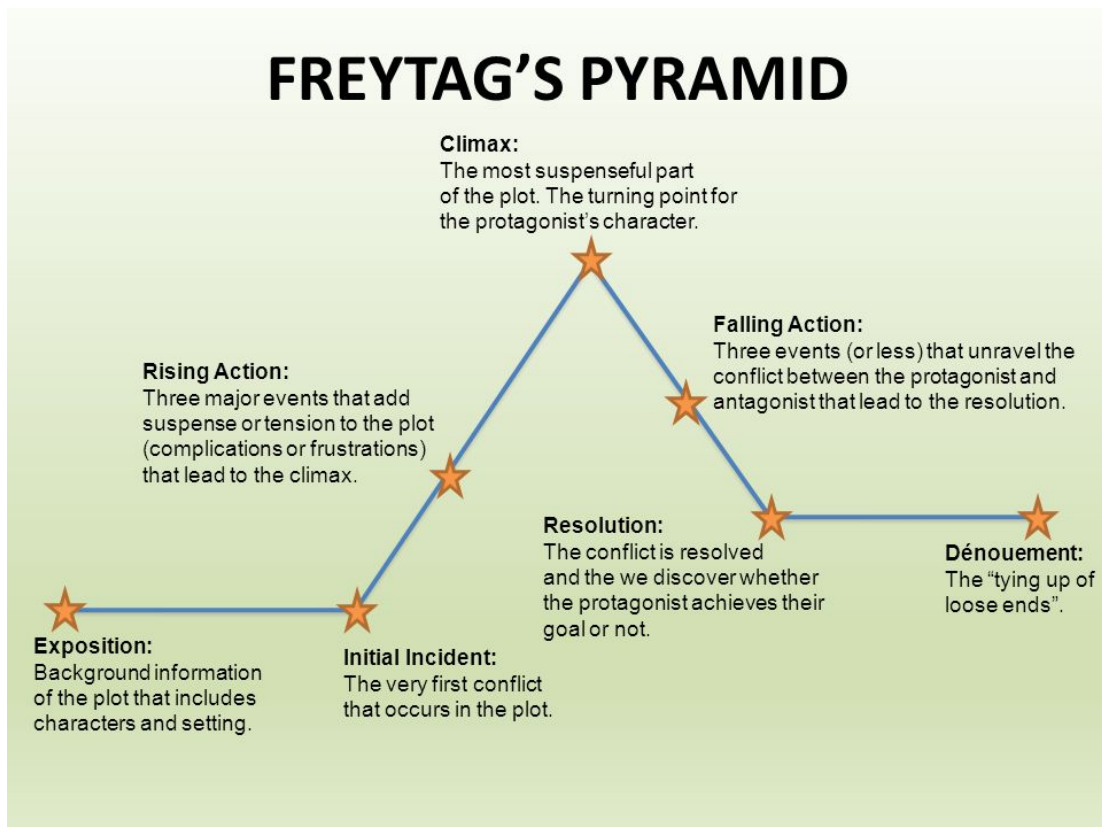
- Choose a conflict in the book and explain how you would solve it in real life.
- What was surprising or shocking in this book? Be specific. Give examples (annotate) and the reason why you were surprised or shocked.

- Was there a word, phrase, situation, object, or idea repeated in your novel? What was it and why did the author keep bringing it up?
- What lesson about life did you learn from the book (the theme)? State the lesson and explain the meaning using examples from the book.

Group 5

Choose ONE of the following questions:

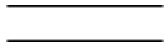
- Why do you think the author chose this title for the book? Support your answer.
- Explain a situation that occurred in your novel that has happened in our world today. Describe each situation in detail.
- If you were to change one event in the novel, which event would you change and why? Be specific and give examples.
- Think of one quote that you really liked from the novel. Write that quote. Explain the significance of the quote.



Novel Code



New character



Description



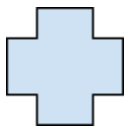
Vocabulary word



Important event



Setting



Author technique

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|--------------|
| * | simile | * | alliteration |
| * | hook | * | onomatopoeia |
| * | cliffhanger | * | humor |
| * | symbolism | * | oxymoron |
| * | flashback | * | satire |
| * | metaphor | * | dialogue |
| * | personification | * | hyperbole |



Love it

! Wow

Recommended Summer Reading 2023

SEVENTH GRADE ENTERING EIGHTH GRADE

***Amari and the Night Brothers* by B.B. Alston** Quinton Peters was the golden boy of the Rosewood low-income housing projects, receiving full scholarship offers to two different Ivy League schools. When he mysteriously goes missing, his little sister, 13-year-old Amari Peters, can't understand why it's not a bigger deal. Why isn't his story all over the news? And why do the police automatically assume he was into something illegal? **NAACP Image Award, Coretta Scott King Author Book Award ©2021 Grade Level 7-8**

***Before the Ever After* by Jacqueline Woodson** For as long as ZJ can remember, his dad has been everyone's hero. As a charming, talented pro football star, he's as beloved to the neighborhood kids he plays with as he is to his millions of adoring sports fans. But lately life at ZJ's house is anything but charming. His dad is having trouble remembering things and seems to be angry all the time. **©2022 Grade Level 7-8**

***The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club* by Phillip Hoose** At the outset of World War II, Denmark did not resist German occupation. Deeply ashamed of his nation's leaders, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen resolved with his brother and a handful of schoolmates to take action against the Nazis if the adults would not. **Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor ©2016 Grade Level 8-10**

***Brother's Keeper* by Julie Lee** Twelve-year-old Sora and her family live under an iron set of rules: No travel without a permit. No criticism of the government. No absences from Communist meetings. Wear red. Hang pictures of the Great Leader. Don't trust your neighbors. Don't speak your mind. You are being watched. **©2020 Grade Level 7-8**

***Code Talker: A Novel About The Navajo Marines Of World War Two* by Joseph Bruchac** After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay is recruited by the Marines to become a Code Talker, sending urgent messages during WW2 in his native tongue. **©2005 Grade Level 7-9**

***Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick** When his younger brother is diagnosed with leukemia, thirteen-year-old Steven tries to deal with his complicated emotions, his school life, and his desire to support his family. **©2005 Grade Level 7-8**

***Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick** Two boys - a slow learner stuck in the body of a teenage giant and a tiny Einstein in leg braces - forge a unique friendship when they pair up to create one formidable human force. **©2001 Grade Level 7-8**

***Good Different* by Meg Eden Kuyatt** Selah knows her rules for being normal. She always, always sticks to them. This means keeping her feelings locked tightly inside, despite the way they build up inside her as each school day goes on, so that she has to run to the bathroom and hide in the stall until she can calm down. So that she has to tear off her normal-person mask the second she gets home from school, and listen to her favorite pop song on repeat, trying to recharge. **©2023 Grade Level 7-8**

***Imprisoned: The Betrayal of Japanese Americans During World War II* by Marin W. Sandler** While Americans fought for freedom and democracy abroad, fear and suspicion towards Japanese Americans swept the country after Japan's sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. **©2013 Grade Level 7-Up**

Recommended Summer Reading 2022

SEVENTH GRADE ENTERING EIGHTH GRADE

***Absolutely Truly* by Heather Vogel Frederick** Truly Lovejoy is accustomed to change. Her father's military career means they move often. But the kind of change that comes when her father loses an arm in Afghanistan and decides to move the family to middle-of-nowhere Pumpkin Falls to take over the family bookstore is a little more than Truly can handle. ©2014 Grade Level 7-8

***All Cross* by James Patterson** Ali Cross has always looked up to his father, former detective and FBI agent Alex Cross. While solving some of the nation's most challenging crimes, his father always kept his head and did the right thing. Can Ali have the same strength and resolve? ©2019 Grade Level 7-8

***As Brave as You* by Jason Reynolds** Genie's summer is full of surprises. The first is that he and his big brother, Ernie, are leaving Brooklyn for the very first time to spend the summer with their grandparents all the way in Virginia—in the COUNTRY! Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book, Schneider Family Book Award ©2016 Grade Level 6-8

***The Boy in the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible...on Schindler's list* by Leon Leyson** The only memoir published by a former Schindler's list child, perfectly captures the innocence of a small boy who goes through the unthinkable. Leon Leyson (born Leib Lezjon) was only ten years old when the Nazis invaded Poland and his family was forced to relocate to the Krakow ghetto. ©2015 Grade Level 6-9

***Code Girls the True Story of the American Girls Who Broke Code in WWII* by Lizz Mundy** More than ten thousand women served as codebreakers during World War II, recruited by the U.S. Army and Navy. While their brothers and boyfriends took up arms, these women moved to the nation's capital to learn the top secret art of code breaking. ©2018 Grade Level 8-Up

***Echo* by Pam Munoz Ryan** Lost and alone in a forbidden forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. ©2014 Grade Level 6-8, 2016 Newbery Honor Book

***Endurance Young Readers Edition* by Scott Kelly** Discover the extreme challenges of long-term spaceflight, the pressures of living in close quarters with people from many countries, the extremely dangerous risk of colliding with space junk and the unnerving feeling of not being able to help if tragedy strikes at home. ©2018 Grade Level 8-9

***Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan** The novel focuses on Esperanza, the only daughter of wealthy Mexican parents, and the events that occur after her father's murder and her subsequent move to California due to the actions of Esperanza's uncles, Tio Luis and Tio Marco. ©2002 Grade Level 8-9, Jane Addams Children's Book Award for Older Children, California Young Readers Medal Nominee for Middle School/Junior High,, Judy Lopez Memorial Award for Children's Literature,, Pura Belpré Award for Narrative

***Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson** It's late summer 1793, and the streets of Philadelphia are abuzz with mosquitoes and rumors of fever. Down near the docks, many have taken ill, and the fatalities are mounting. Now they include Polly, the serving girl at the Cook Coffeehouse. ©2002 Grade Level 8-9, South Carolina Book Award Nominee for Junior Book, Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee for Sundogs, Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award Nominee

***Flygirl* by Sherri L. Smith** All Ida Mae Jones wants to do is fly. Her daddy was a pilot, and years after his death she feels closest to him when she's in the air. But as a young black woman in 1940s Louisiana, she knows the sky is off limits to her, until America enters World War II, and the Army forms the WASP-Women Airforce Service Pilots. ©2010 Grade Level 8-9

***I Kill the Mockingbird* by Paul Acampora** When Lucy, Elena, and Michael receive their summer reading list, they are excited to see *To Kill A Mockingbird* included. But not everyone in their class shares the same enthusiasm. ©2015 Grade Level 6-8

***A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story* by Linda Sue Park** The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. ©2011 Grade Level 6-8

Do NOT
read
this as a
class

Archdiocese of Philadelphia
AOP Reading Olympics Book List - Grades 6 to 8

	Title	Author	
1	Absolutely Truly	Heather Vogel Frederick	
2	A.K.A. Genius	Marilee Haynes	
3	The Alchemist	Paulo Coelho	
4	Code Girls: The True Story of the American Girls Who Broke Code in WWII	Liza Mundy	
5	The Dreamer	Pam Munoz Ryan	
6	Endurance Young Readers Edition	Scott Kelly	
7	Esperanza Rising	Pam Munoz Ryan	
8	Finding Langston	Lisa Cline-Ransome	
9	Full Cicada Moon	Marilyn Hilton	
10	A Handful of Stars	Cynthia Lord	
11	Hour of the Bees	Lindsay Eager	
12	In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse	Joseph Marshall	
13	The Inquisitor's Tale: Or The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog	Adam Gidwitz	
14	A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story	Linda Sue Park	
15	Loyalty	Avi	
16	Merci Suarez Changes Gears	Meg Medina	
17	Race to the Bottom of the Sea	Lindsay Eagar	
18	The Red Bandanna	Tom Rinaldi	
19	Refugee	Alan Gratz	
20	Restart	Gordon Korman	
21	Strongheart: Wonder Dog of the Silver Screen	Candace Fleming	
22	Terror at Bottle Creek	Watt Key	
23	The Wild Robot	Peter Brown	
24	Wolf Hollow	Lauren Wolk	
25	You Can Fly: The Tuskegee Airmen	Carole Brown Weatherford	